AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method comprising:

providing a 4-substituted-*o*-xylene;

brominating the 4-substituted-*o*-xylene to form a 4-substituted-1,2-bis(dibromomethyl)benzene;

introducing a sulfuric acid into the 4-substituted-1,2- bis(dibromomethyl)benzene

reacting the sulfuric acid and the 4-substituted-1,2- bis(dibromomethyl)benzene to form a reaction product;

introducing a solid sodium bicarbonate into the reaction product;

introducing water into the reaction product after introducing the solid sodium bicarbonate; and

hydrolyzing the reaction product with the water to form a 4-substituted-benzene-1,2-carbaldehyde.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein introducing the sulfuric acid comprises introducing a sufficient amount of the sulfuric acid to give a mole ratio of the sulfuric acid to the 4-substituted-1,2- bis(dibromomethyl)benzene that is from 10:1 to 14:1.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein introducing the sodium bicarbonate comprises introducing a sufficient amount of the sodium bicarbonate to give a mole ratio of the sodium bicarbonate to the 4-substituted-1,2-bis(dibromomethyl)benzene that is from 5:1 to 11:1.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein introducing the water comprises introducing ice.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the 4-substituted-o-xylene comprises providing a 4-substituted-o-xylene that is selected from the group consisting of 4-fluoro-o-xylene, 4-chloro-o-xylene, 4-bromo-o-xylene, and 4-nitro-o-xylene.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A method comprising:

brominating a 4-substituted-*o*-xylene to form a 4-substituted-1,2-bis(dibromomethyl)benzene;

reacting the 4-substituted-1,2-bis(dibromomethyl)benzene with sulfuric acid to form a reaction product;

introducing a solid sodium bicarbonate into the reaction product; and

hydrolyzing the reaction product to form a 4-substituted-benzene-1,2-carbaldehyde after introducing the bicarbonate.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising introducing a sufficient amount of the sulfuric acid to give a mole ratio of the sulfuric acid to the 4-substituted-1,2- bis(dibromomethyl)benzene that is from 10:1 to 14:1.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein introducing the sodium bicarbonate comprises introducing a sufficient amount of the sodium bicarbonate to give a mole ratio of the sodium bicarbonate to the 4-substituted-1,2-bis(dibromomethyl)benzene that is from 5:1 to 11:1.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the 4-substituted-o-xylene comprises a 4-substituted-o-xylene that is selected from the group consisting of 4-fluoro-o-xylene, 4-chloro-o-xylene, 4-bromo-o-xylene, and 4-nitro-o-xylene.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A method comprising:

reacting a 4-substituted-1,2- bis(dibromomethyl)benzene with sulfuric acid to form a reaction product;

introducing a solid sodium bicarbonate into the reaction product; and

hydrolyzing the reaction product to form a 4-substituted-benzene-1,2-carbaldehyde, after introducing the bicarbonate.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising introducing a sufficient amount of the sulfuric acid to give a mole ratio of the sulfuric acid to the 4-substituted-1,2- bis(dibromomethyl)benzene that is from 10:1 to 14:1.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein introducing the sodium bicarbonate comprises introducing a sufficient amount of the sodium bicarbonate to give a mole ratio of the sodium bicarbonate to the 4-substituted-1,2-bis(dibromomethyl)benzene that is from 5:1 to 11:1.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, [[wherein the 4-substituted-o-xylene comprises]] further comprising brominating a 4-substituted-o-xylene that is selected from the group consisting of 4-fluoro-o-xylene, 4-chloro-o-xylene, 4-bromo-o-xylene, and 4-nitro-o-xylene to form the 4-substituted-1,2-bis(dibromomethyl)benzene.

19. (Canceled)